

Enhanced Smog Check

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



WHY IS THE SMOG CHECK PROGRAM CHANGING IN THE SAN BERNARDINO AREA?

Because of population growth and air quality issues, portions of the high desert region of San Bernardino County have been redesignated as Enhanced Smog Check areas. These include the cities of Victorville, Hesperia, and Apple Valley. The following ZIP codes are now under the Enhanced Smog Check program: 92307, 92308, 92340, 92345, 92392, 92393, 92394, and 92395. The Enhanced program uses additional equipment to test for more pollutants, and newer test procedures help identify vehicles that need repair.

WHAT ARE THE ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF SMOG CHECK?

According to the California Air Resources Board, the Smog Check program removes more than 360 tons of smog-forming pollutants from the air every day.

WHAT CHANGES UNDER THE NEW PROGRAM?

The program changes require additional equipment to test for more pollutants and newer test procedures to help identify vehicles that need repair. Also, some vehicles are directed to Test-Only stations for their Smog Check.

WHAT IS A TEST-ONLY STATION?

Test-Only stations are licensed to only perform Smog Checks. State law prohibits them from making repairs.

WHICH VEHICLES NEED TO GO TO A TEST-ONLY STATION FOR THEIR SMOG CHECK?

Vehicles with expected high emissions levels are randomly selected for testing at these stations.

HOW WILL I KNOW IF I NEED TO TAKE MY VEHICLE TO A TEST-ONLY STATION?

You will be notified on the registration renewal notice sent by the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) if your vehicle requires a Smog Check at a Test-Only station.

HOW CAN I FIND A TEST-ONLY STATION?

You can find a Test-Only station near you by visiting www.smogcheck.ca.gov or by calling 1-800-952-5210.

If your vehicle requires a Smog Check at a Test-Only station and it fails, you will automatically qualify

for the Consumer Assistance Program.

(For information, see section on "Repair Assistance" on reverse page.)



HOW MUCH WILL THE NEW SMOG CHECK COST?

Smog Check prices vary in different areas. Prices for Smog Checks aren't regulated, so motorists are encouraged to shop around. For a list of stations in your area, visit www.smogcheck.ca.gov.

WILL MY VEHICLE BE TESTED MORE OFTEN UNDER THE NEW SMOG CHECK PROGRAM?

No. Your vehicle must be tested every other year, just as before. A Smog Check may also be required when you sell your car.

WHICH VEHICLES REQUIRE A SMOG CHECK?

A Smog Check is required for your vehicle if your DMV renewal notice is stamped "Smog Certification Required." It's also required if you sell a 1976 to 2001 vehicle (with the exception of diesels, motorcycles, electric vehicles, two-cylinder engine vehicles and hybrids).

HOW CAN I HELP MY VEHICLE PASS SMOG CHECK?

Proper and regular maintenance according to your vehicle's Owner's Manual, and not tampering with the emissions control equipment are the keys to passing Smog Check and lowering emissions from your vehicle.

WHAT DO I DO IF MY VEHICLE FAILS SMOG CHECK?

You will need to get your vehicle repaired at a state-licensed Test and Repair station so it can pass its Smog Check retest in order to complete your registration. But, first see if you are eligible for our Consumer Assistance Program. (For information, see sections "Repair Assistance" and "Vehicle Retirement".)

WHAT IS A GOLD SHIELD STATION?

Gold Shield stations are licensed Smog Check stations that provide additional test and repair services for greater consumer convenience. These stations are authorized to perform repairs for consumers who are approved for Repair Assistance through the Consumer Assistance Program. Gold Shield stations can also repair, retest and certify vehicles identified as gross polluters and vehicles that have been directed to test-only stations and fail their initial inspection. When using a Gold Shield station, motorists are not required to return to a Test-Only station after repairs. To find a Gold Shield station near you, visit www.smogcheck.ca.gov or call 1-800-952-5210.

WHAT IS A GROSS POLLUTER?

Some vehicles that fail their smog inspections give off such high levels of pollution that a category called "Gross Polluter" was created. BAR identifies these vehicles to encourage their immediate repair. Gross Polluters are some of the worst polluting vehicles on California roadways.



HELP CALIFORNIA BREATHE EASIER

REPAIR OR RETIRE YOUR POLLUTING VEHICLE

www.breatheasier.ca.gov

WHAT PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE TO ME IF MY VEHICLE FAILS SMOG CHECK?

The Consumer Assistance Program (CAP) helps many Californians whose vehicles need Smog Check repairs. The CAP offers two options to help California consumers whose vehicles fail their biennial (every other year) Smog Check.

REPAIR ASSISTANCE

CAP allows qualified motorists to receive up to \$500 in financial assistance for Smog Check repairs. You may qualify for repair assistance in one of two ways:

1. Your income falls within certain levels, or
2. Your vehicle requires a Smog Check at a Test-Only station.

VEHICLE RETIREMENT

The Vehicle Retirement Program is available to motorists who want to voluntarily retire their vehicle rather than repair it. Eligible consumers can receive \$1,000 in exchange for their vehicle. Approved vehicles must be driven to one of the states authorized dismantlers where they are crushed.

HOW CAN I APPLY FOR CAP?

To get an application, visit our Web site at www.smogcheck.ca.gov or call 1-800-952-5210.

If you intend to apply for the Repair Assistance Program, do not have any repairs performed on your vehicle until you submit an application and have it approved. You will then receive a list of participating stations where you can take your vehicle to have it repaired.

WHO ADMINISTERS THE SMOG CHECK PROGRAM IN CALIFORNIA?

The Smog Check program is administered by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Bureau of Automotive Repair (DCA/BAR). BAR licenses and regulates more than 8,000 Smog Check stations, and nearly 11,700 Smog Check technicians.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SMOG CHECK PROGRAM AND THE BUREAU OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR?

For more information visit www.smogcheck.ca.gov or call 1-800-952-5210.